

DFS QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STEPHEN D. COAN, STATE FIRE MARSHAL • VOL. 5 • ISSUE 1 • MARCH, 2000

Official Smoke and Heat Detector Requirements

In April, 1998, State Fire Marshal Coan sent all fire chiefs a copy of an Official Interpretation #49-98 from the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards to All Building Officials regarding the Smoke and Heat Detector Requirements in One- and Two-Family Dwellings – Section 3603.16 of the Sixth Edition of the State Building Code. If you need an additional copy of this official interpretation, please contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (978) 567-3300 and ask for Code Compliance. It is available on-line at www.magnet.state.us/bbrs/code.htm. Highlights of that interpretation include:

Photoelectric Section of 6th Edition of Building Code in Place

When installing a smoke detector within 20' (twenty feet) of a bathroom or kitchen, it must be a photoelectric detector.

1999 Fire Deaths

- 40** fire and explosion incidents killed **52** civilians in 1999, down from **59** in 1998.
- 30** adults, **16** seniors, **6** children.
- 30** males and **22** females.
- 43** structure fire deaths.
 - 4** motor vehicle fires deaths.
 - 5** outside & other fire deaths.
- 7** firefighters died while fighting fires in 1999.

Ionization Detectors Still Permitted

Ionization detectors are still permitted when installed at a distance greater than 20' from a kitchen or bathroom.

Heat Detectors Are NOT Required

At this time heat detectors are not required.

Can Heat Detectors Above and Beyond the Code Be Required?

In new construction, the requirements for smoke and heat detection requirements are spelled out in the building code. The requirements for heat detectors will be addressed in 3603.16.4 in 780 CMR. This section is currently blank with no requirement to install. At this time individual cities and towns may not require these devices. If a city wants to require them, they should contact the Board of Building Regulations and Standards for directions on how to proceed properly. It should be noted that each instance will be taken on a case by case basis as special conditions arise.

Fire officials should be careful not to get into the habit of designing a fire detection system for owners or installers. They should not be going to a site and pointing to the ceiling with detector locations and spacing. Requiring a heat detector in the garage is not permissible. Many

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From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

December, 1999, was a terribly sad month for the fire service in Massachusetts with seven firefighter line of duty deaths and funerals. A third generation Revere firefighter died in late December, just days after six firefighters were killed in a tragic fire in Worcester. The events of December will remain indelibly etched in the minds and hearts of firefighters everywhere. The fire, loss of life, and ensuing recovery effort that took place is unprecedented in recent Massachusetts history. This also had a personal impact on the Department of Fire Services employees as we lost one of our own, Jerry Lucey, who worked part-time at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA).

In the wake of this enormous tragedy remains the recognition of the tremendous outpouring of support and resources by fire departments from all over this state. The performance evidenced in Worcester is indeed a tribute to the character of the men and women of the Massachusetts fire service, assisting each other in time of need.

We saw the Critical Incident Stress Management network, coordinated through the DFS, put to its greatest test yet. These teams were an invaluable asset in helping our firefighters

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From the Fire Marshal

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deal with their grief and sorrow.

Another great source of strength through this ordeal was the Mass. Corps. of Fire Chaplains. This organization of fire chaplains had only been inaugurated six weeks before the Worcester fire. They remain instrumental in helping families and firefighters cope.

Governor's Initiative

As a result of the fire in the Cold Storage Warehouse, the Governor has filed a bill with three initiatives to enhance firefighter safety. One initiative increases training for firefighter survival techniques such as Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). The second initiative is a matching grant program of up to \$12,500 per community to purchase equipment for firefighter safety and survival in a menu-driven approach. Local departments can select among a variety of technologies such as PASS devices, communication and accountability systems, protective clothing and thermal imaging technology to increase their own firefighters' safety. The third initiative contains funding for the MFA to develop standard operating procedures for fireground management techniques. These would be guidelines that local communities could voluntarily choose to adopt.

DFS Facility - Stow

An architectural study for the expansion of the Stow headquarters campus is underway. This is the first step in a long journey to completing the physical plant for the Department of Fire Services. We are also looking forward to the arrival of the new incident support vehicle. The Department of Fire Services team will use this when supporting local fire departments at major incidents. ♦

Cooperation Among Code Enforcement Officials

David Holmes, State Building Inspector

How well do you work with your local fire department officials? Do you agree on where smoke detectors should be placed in a single family home? Do you or the local fire official mark smoke or heat detector locations on plans? Does the fire official require installations of heat or smoke detectors that may violate their listing? Do you transmit plans to the fire official, as required by 780CMR for construction control projects that involve Chapters 4, 9, or 34? Certain answers to these questions may indicate that a problem exists. So what can we do about this?

All public safety officials must apply the regulations under their respective jurisdictions in an equitable, uniform manner. If they do not, confusion and misinformation work against us all. Uniformity starts by being a good listener. Try scheduling some time with you local inspectors: electrical, plumbing, gas, fire, health, etc. on a regular basis to air and discuss various issues encountered in the field. Try to dispel mythological code interpretations by presenting facts. Be respectful of each other's strengths and weaknesses and varying job duties. These small-beginning steps can go a long way toward developing and maintaining a strong, cooperative team of code enforcement officials in your municipality.

Formerly, as an inspector of buildings, I recall individuals that attempted to "divide and conquer" by way of spreading miscommunications of one sort or another. Statements like, "Yeah, but the fire chief says, such and such." were quickly dispatched by an immediate call to the fire chief. More often than not, the chief had been misquoted or misunderstood. Has

that happened to you lately? Within minutes the issue was resolved or discovered to be non-existent! Ninety-nine percent of these problems are communication related and are merely perceptions generated by these miscommunications. Jump on erroneous rumors and stamp them out.

What if the local fire official still does not agree with you on interpretation of 780CMR? Everyone's entitled to their opinion, but not at the cost of the public trust. Contact me directly, as well as Timothee Rodrique, (978) 567-3300 at the State Fire Marshal's Office. Why? As state level public safety officials, we must strive to bond and bind local inspectors together by providing consistent, accurate code interpretation and enforcement guidance. Let's work together on this! ♦

New Bedford Emergency Battery Replacement Program

The New Bedford Fire Department has joined together with the New Bedford Rotary Club to provide batteries for smoke detectors in situations where the fire department has responded to an incident and found that the smoke detectors are not operational due to a missing or expired battery.

This program attempts to place the battery-operated smoke detectors back in operation prior to departure of the fire department in order to provide some protection to the occupants of the premises.

The battery program is delivered through fire companies in emergency situations where smoke detector protection would not be provided for lack of a charged battery. The fire company returns a card for the location to the Fire Prevention Office for recording purposes and follow up for compliance issues if necessary. ♦

FIRE INVESTIGATION NEWS

Farewell Salute to Lt. Fay

A farewell salute goes out to Lt. Martin E. Fay, Section Commander of the Fire & Explosion Investigation Section. Lt. Fay has commanded the Fire & Explosion for the past three years. As of February 13, 2000, Lt. Fay will be moving on to a new assignment with the Massachusetts State Police at the Communications Section in Framingham. During his career in the Fire Investigation Section, Lt. Fay brought many positive changes to the section including the staffing, training and equipping the Hazardous Devices Unit. Lt. Fay's leadership capabilities have earned him respect across the Commonwealth. Lt. Fay dedicated many long, hard hours to the Fire & Explosion Investigation Section and he was not afraid to get dirty and dig out a fire scene with the members of the unit. In fact, his

investigators had to dig him out, when a wall collapsed on him last December at the site of the Franklin Street Worcester fire investigation. Unbelievably, he received only minor injuries. Lt. Fay's colleagues at the Department of Fire Services wish him well in his future endeavors.

The Fire & Explosion Investigation Section announces the transfers of Tpr. Kevin M. Condon, Tpr. Timothy F. MacDougall and Tpr. Robert E. Murphy, who have recently joined the Suffolk County Detective Unit where they will continue to use their investigative talents investigating homicides. All three were members of the North Team and will be missed by the many fire departments they worked so closely with. Thanks for a great job and good luck!

New North Team Leader

As of January 16, 2000, Sgt. Dennis

L. Brooks has assumed the duties of the North Team Leader. A member of the Massachusetts State Police for over 18 years, some of his career highlights have included his long tenure at the Narcotics and Organized Crime Section and the Public Integrity Division of the Attorney General's Office. Prior to joining the Fire Investigation Section, Sgt. Brooks spent five years commanding the Central Massachusetts Gang Unit. Sgt. Brooks brings a wide variety of experience and expertise to the Fire Investigation Section.

Welcome to Lt. Robert Zepf

Det. Lt. Robert Zepf, a 28-year veteran of the State Police, has accepted the challenge of leading the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section. He has been in Investigative services for 20 years, with 15 of them spent at the Norfolk County District Attorney's

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S.A.F.E.rs Hold Fire Safety Program at Springfield Hospital

On February 8, 2000, S.A.F.E. Educators from eight Western Mass. Fire Departments celebrated Burn Awareness Week by presenting a Fire Safety and Burn Awareness program to children and family members at the Shriner's Hospital in Springfield. Entertainment included a puppet show along with visits by Patches the Fire Dog, Sparky the Fire Dog®, and Freddie the Fire Truck. Each child had an opportunity to try on miniature firefighting gear and received a fire hat and a badge. Participating departments included: South Hadley, Monson, Westfield, Cummington, Holyoke, Granby, and Belchertown. ♦



Local S.A.F.E.rs at Shriner's Hospital during Burn Awareness Week.



MFIRS CORNER

Version 5 Starts 1/1/2001

At 0001 hours on January 1, 2001, Massachusetts will switch from its current way of reporting fire incidents to Version 5 of the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS v5). It is important for fire departments to begin planning now for this major change in the way we will be reporting fire incidents in the new century. As of January 1, 2001 the current incident reporting system will no longer be accepted. Now is the time make sure your software and hardware can accommodate the new system, to purchase software and hardware if you are still using paper forms, and to plan for training your personnel in the new system.

Major Benefits

Massachusetts is a participant in the National Fire Incident Reporting System. Version 5 is the first major overhaul in the way we collect fire incident data nationally in over 20 years. Many of the innovations started here in Massachusetts, such as collecting information on hazardous materials responses and calls for carbon monoxide incidents, have been incorporated into the national system. Version V will do a much better job of collecting information on hazardous materials incidents, wildland fires, EMS runs, arson fires, juvenile-set fires, while at the same time making it much easier to report contained fires such as chimney fires, food on the stove, and wastebasket fires. Abbreviated paths through the system for nuisance fires with no losses or casualties making it quick and easy to capture these incidents. Fixed property use codes will be reduced from 555 to 150. Fire

losses are now broken into property and contents to better define structure losses, as well as pre-incident value is captured to see how much was saved.

Hazardous Material

Small spills of hazardous materials such as gasoline are quickly and easily documented. Detailed information is completed optionally only if a serious release of hazardous materials occurs. We have made several additions to the hazardous materials module, including collecting data on the tier level of state resource response, the number of entries made by emergency personnel to contain or control a spill or leak, and the suit or PPE level used by the responders.

Critical Incidents

Another aspect of data collection that Massachusetts has added is a section on the basic module on Critical Incident Response; fire departments can document whether it was a critical incident, if a CISM team was mobilized and the circumstances that made it a critical incident.

Other Benefits

Another benefit to MFIRS v5 is that factors that impact fireground suppression or future prevention are captured. Burglar bars, high rack storage, balloon construction, frozen hydrants and unprotected vertical openings are some examples of this information. Information on detectors and automatic suppression systems has been greatly expanded for the new system. Included are information on the system's presence, range, power supply, effectiveness, operation and reason for failure.

Modular System

The system is divided into several modules. Data is collected for all incident types in a basic module. Additional modules are completed when necessary. The Basic, Fire and Structure Modules will be required and are roughly the equivalent of our current incident report. In addition, the Arson/Juvenile Firesetter Module will be required, when it is called for, and will be considered part of the incident report. The civilian and firefighter casualty report modules will be required and considered part of a complete incident report as they are now. The Wildland Fire, Hazardous Materials Incident and EMS modules may be used by the local fire department at the department head's option. If a department voluntarily collects this data, the Office of the State Fire Marshal would like to receive it and will contribute it to the national database as well. The system has additional modules which the state will not collect or pass onto the federal system, but that the local fire department might wish to use. They are the Apparatus and Personnel Modules.

Implementation

Communities currently submitting data by paper copy are strongly encouraged to use the implementation of MFIRS v5 as the time to automate. The new system is fairly easy to use, pointing and clicking from screen to screen on the computer, but will not be so easy as a paper-based system. We will still be providing paper forms for fire departments, but encourage you to use this opportunity to automate fire incident reporting and other fire department functions. The paper forms in the new

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MFIRS Corner

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version are being designed and developed and are not yet available.

Software Vendors

Fire incident software vendors have just received the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System v5 Record Layout. It contains very few modifications from the national system for Massachusetts. They should be able to adapt their v5 products quickly and start the Massachusetts certification process shortly. Many vendors are already certified at the federal level, but at the moment no vendor has yet been certified by Massachusetts for v5 incident reporting. As they satisfactorily complete the two-part pilot test, we will post their names on the web page.

Record Layout

The record layout for MFIRS v5 program is ready for distribution to fire departments and vendors. Please contact the Fire Data and Public Education Unit for a copy of the record layout.

Training

Training in v5 for fire departments will begin after Labor Day. Dates and times are scheduled to make every effort to reach all fire departments across the state. Arrangements have been made for two western Mass. trainings in Springfield and one at the Cape. A maximum of three members per department will be registered and it is strongly encouraged that the main contact of MFIRS attends the training with the training officer and anyone else who is primarily responsible for the reports within that fire department. It is important to get to every fire department this fall.

Fire departments who already report incidents electronically are strongly encouraged to contact their vendor for a demo of the vendor's v5 software, a brief review will put you ahead when it comes time for trainings. A preview of the new system may leave you with relevant questions that can be addressed in the trainings.

Data Collection for 2000

Please use "00" as the first 2 digits in incident numbers. If this is a problem for you because of software, please use 76 as the first 2 digits instead. If this method is necessary, please advise Amy Uzdavinis. Some software is not Y2K compliant and this is the method to use to get around those problems.

Fire data for each month should be submitted within the first two weeks of the next month. It is necessary to adhere to a strict schedule of data submission during 2000 since the conversion to MFIRS v5 in January, 2001 is time critical. Your efforts toward making this a smooth year and transition are greatly appreciated.

MFIRS v4 Training on Martha's Vineyard April 29, 2000

There will be an MFIRS v4 Training on Saturday April 29, 2000 at the Edgartown Fire Department from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call the MFA for an application, reference course number 200039613W. This is the last version 4 training that will be conducted. ♦

Firefighter Standards: A Common Approach

*Mark J Cady, Fire Instructor II,
Firefighter Skills Group*

I have been approached by firefighters and asked why do standards exist in the fire service. The simple answer is so that fire fighters can safely and successfully accomplish tasks on the fire ground.

This was no more evident than during the Worcester tragedy during the month of December. While operations were ongoing at the Franklin Street incident, Worcester had a structure fire on the east side of the city that could be seen from the Franklin Street operations. The response to the fire was a complement of a District 6 Task Force.

These fire departments work together on occasionally but not a daily basis. This did not hamper their ability to quickly extinguish the fire. This common approach gave the incident commander, also part of the task force, the ability to work with many different communities to accomplish a coordinated fire attack.

Nationally recognized consensus standards provide departments with a common approach to accomplish tasks on the fire ground. It is this common approach that can be adapted to the equipment and needs of the department with the fundamental skills remaining the same.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy helps fire departments to train their firefighters in this common approach. The core of this effort is the Firefighter I and Firefighter II Program. The program assists fire departments in designing a common approach training program for their firefighters around the departments schedule and needs. ♦

Firefighters Complete Rigorous Professional Training

The 133rd Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-five day Recruit Firefighting Program graduated on February 4, 2000. This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to effectively and safely perform their jobs. This program is offered, tuition-free, by the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

The forty-four graduates, including forty-one men and three women, represent the fire departments of: Bellingham, Belmont, Braintree, Chelmsford, Danvers, Dracut, Falmouth, Franklin, Lexington, North Andover, Saugus, Scituate, Southbridge, Stoughton, Taunton, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Westfield, Wilbraham, and Winchester.

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions.

To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the

Recruit Program, all students will have met national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and will be certified to the level of Firefighter I and II by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council. ♦



The 133rd Recruit Class.

Photo by Sue Peltier

1st Mother-Daughter Firefighting Family at DFS

Graduating in recruit class #133 was FF Rebecca Murphy of Westfield. Cheering her in the audience was her mother, FF Pamela Murphy of the Agawam Fire Department. Firefighting has long been a family tradition handed down from one generation to the next. Only now have women been in the fire service long enough for a mother to pass the tradition of service and community protection to her daughter. Although this may not be a first for Massachusetts, it seems to be a first for us here at the DFS. ♦

1999 Life Safety Achievement Award

The Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI), formerly Operation Life Safety, has just initiated the Life Safety Achievement award program for zero structural fire deaths during calendar year 1999. In 1999, 945 fire departments received this prestigious award for their fire prevention and public education efforts during calendar year 1998. Applications are due May 31, 2000 to the RFSI office and will be awarded for Fire Prevention Week. For copies of the application form, please contact the Public Information Office in the Mass. Department of Fire Services at (978) 567-3380. ♦

CT Public Education Conference April 28, 2000

The Connecticut Public Fire Education Conference will be held on April 28, 2000 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in East Hartford. The theme is updating behavioral and learning characteristics of our clients and will address learning styles from pre-k to adult. Massachusetts public fire educators interested in attending, should contact the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3380 for details. ♦

NEWS FROM CPSC

Court Orders Ohio Co. to Stop U.S. Sales, Dispose of Banned Fireworks

December 30, 1999 Release # 00-048

Based on evidence of more than 100 violations of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) fireworks requirements, a federal judge has ordered an Ohio company to destroy its supply of banned fireworks after an accounting of the inventory.

Judge James S. Gwin of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio has issued a permanent injunction against Midwest Fireworks Manufacturing Co. Inc., of Deerfield, Ohio, two related companies, and two corporate officers. Judge Gwin ordered Midwest to cease purchasing, receiving, or distributing any fireworks that are banned, hazardous substances under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, enforced by CPSC. Judge Gwin entered his written order on December 29, 1999. In earlier orders, Judge Gwin barred Midwest from selling the violative fireworks. He issued a temporary restraining order on September 30, 1999, and a preliminary injunction on November 3, 1999.

"Fireworks that fail to meet our requirements are extremely dangerous to unsuspecting consumers, especially children," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "We are gratified that the court has endorsed our strong stand against the sale of these products."

This court order is the result of ongoing fireworks investigations conducted by CPSC across the U.S., and the legal representation of the Office of Consumer Litigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

CPSC Announces Initiative to Monitor E-Commerce for Unsafe Products

December 16, 1999 Release # 00-035

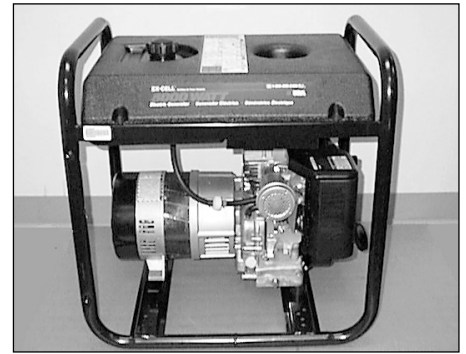
The CPSC is launching Operation S.O.S. - Safe Online Shopping - to find more recalled, illegal and potentially hazardous consumer products being sold on the World Wide Web. CPSC recalls include products sold in both traditional stores and online, but this new initiative concentrates on the growing number of products for sale in cyberspace.

CPSC has instituted a "War Room" where CPSC investigators will monitor the Internet for possibly dangerous and illegal consumer products. CPSC Chairman Ann Brown announced the new initiative today at a National Press Club luncheon.

Using computers and telephone lines that can't be traced back to the government, non-government credit cards and anonymous shipping addresses, these experts, posing as consumers, shop for items that could be dangerous to consumers. The items purchased are then examined and tested for compliance to federal safety standards. Operation S.O.S. monitors retail sites and product-related news groups on the Internet.

CPSC already has found dangerous products being sold online, including:

- Flammable children's sleepwear
- Prescription drugs without child-resistant packaging
- Children's jackets with drawstrings that pose a strangulation hazard
- Mini-hammocks without spreader bars that pose a strangulation hazard
- Cigarette lighters without child-resistant mechanisms



Consumer Alert: Gasoline Tanks on Certain Portable Generators

December 30, 1999 Release # 00-047

The CPSC joins DeVilbiss Air Power Company (DAPC) of Jackson, Tenn., in alerting consumers about gasoline tanks used on certain models of portable generators. About 295,000 of these generators were sold nationwide from February 1996 until June 1999. CPSC and DAPC are investigating whether the fuel tanks on the generators can crack where the tanks mount on the frame, posing a fire hazard. As a precaution until that evaluation is complete, consumers should not put more than three gallons of gasoline in the fuel tanks at any time.

The only generators affected by this notice have the following brand names: DeVilbiss Air Power Company, EX-CELL, PowerBack, Companion Model 919-32721, and Craftsman Model No. 919-32651. The seven gallon tanks that are affected include only those tanks that bear dates prior to June 1, 1999. The date is on the serial barcode label found on one of the gasoline tank support rails and on the shipping carton label.

Safe use of generators

Many people bought generators as a precaution in case there were power outages because of Y2K. If

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you use a generator, you need to take precautions to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, gasoline ignition, and electrocution.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Do not use gasoline generators indoors. Generators produce carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas that can kill people. Each year, carbon monoxide from fuel-burning appliances kills approximately 200 people and sends 10,000 people to hospital emergency rooms. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu, including nausea, headache, dizziness, and irregular breathing. Exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide can cause death.

CPSC recommends that every home should have a carbon monoxide alarm that meets the requirements of the most recent UL 2034 standard or the International Approval Services 6-96 standard. Generators should be used only outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes to the home, and protected from direct exposure to rain and snow.

Gasoline Ignition

Do not store gasoline indoors. Gasoline fumes can travel across a room and be ignited by a water heater or some other ignition source. Gasoline and other flammable liquids should be stored outside the home in safety containers.

Electrocution

Portable generators can also present a risk of electrocution if they are not properly connected to the home electrical wiring system. Do not plug the generator power leads into a wall outlet. Have a qualified electrician hook up the standby electrical system, or have the local utility install a linking device if available.

CPSC has posted Y2K generator safety tips on this web site.

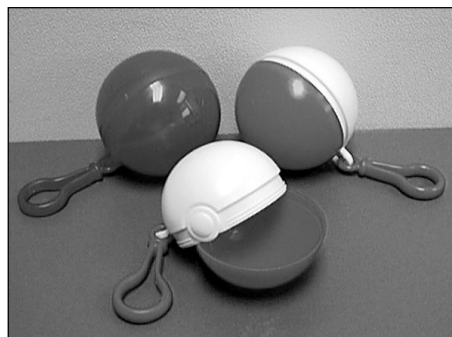
Black & Decker Agrees to Pay Civil Penalty for Failing to Report Toaster Defect

December 30, 1999 Release # 00-043

CPSC announced today that Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., of Towson, Md., will pay a civil penalty of \$575,000 - one of the largest ever paid to the agency. The penalty resolves charges that the company's Spacemaker T1000 Type 1 Horizontal Under-the-Cabinet Toasters contained defects, and that the firm failed to report the problem to the agency in a timely manner as required by law.

CPSC also charged that Black & Decker withheld consumer complaint information and important engineering documents during CPSC's investigation.

Although the company agreed to the civil penalty, Black & Decker denied the charges and that it violated the law.



Pokemon Balls Cause 2nd Death

January 27, 2000 Release # 00-058

The U.S. CPSC and Burger King Corp. are again urging consumers to immediately destroy and discard Pokemon balls distributed with Burger King kids meals in November and December 1999. On January 25, 2000, a 4-month-old boy in Indianapolis, Ind., report-

edly suffocated when one-half of a Pokemon ball that was in his crib became stuck on his face.

Burger King Corp., in cooperation with CPSC, issued a voluntary recall of more than 25 million Pokemon balls on December 27, 1999. The balls pose a suffocation hazard to children under three years of age.

In December, a 13-month old girl reportedly suffocated when one-half of a Pokemon ball covered her nose and mouth. Also in December, an 18-month old girl nearly suffocated when a ball-half got stuck over her face. On the second attempt, the girl's father was able to pull the ball-half from her face.

Pokemon balls are plastic, ball-shaped containers between 2.75 and 3 inches in diameter. They pull apart to reveal one of 57 different Pokemon toys inside. The balls were distributed in a variety of colors including red and white, and hot pink. Packaging described them as safety tested and recommended for all ages of children. Burger King restaurants nationwide distributed the Pokemon balls inside Burger King big kids meals and regular kids meals from early November through December 1999.

Consumers should immediately take the balls away from children under the age of three. They should discard the ball or return both halves of the ball and the clip to a Burger King restaurant for a free order of small fries. Children can continue to use the Pokemon toy that came inside the ball.

Candle Recalls

CerArte Candles Sold at Neiman Marcus

December 23, 1999 Release # 00-045

Neiman Marcus Group, Inc., is recalling about 5,600 candles with

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painted metallic surfaces. The painted surfaces on these candles can ignite, spark, burn rapidly, and drip wax, posing a fire hazard.

Neiman Marcus received several reports from consumers, including one where these candles sparked and burned so rapidly that hot wax spilled from the candle onto adjoining surfaces. No injuries were reported.

These painted metallic "CerArte" candles are packaged in clear plastic and have a gold label on the bottom which states "Made in Italy." A Neiman Marcus label is placed on the bottom of the candle too. Neiman Marcus sold 22 different styles of "CerArte" candles through December 22, 1999. The candles sold for approximately \$15 to \$35.

The "CerArte" candles come in many shapes, including Christmas Ball, Criss-Cross Pillar, Fleur De Lys Pillar, Swirl Cone, Swirl Egg, Gift Box, Tear Drop, Criss-Cross Taper, Fleur De Lys Taper, Joker, Kiss, Christmas Tree, and Jolly Jester.

Consumers should stop using these candles immediately and return them to any Neiman Marcus store for a refund. For more information, call Neiman Marcus at 800-685-6695.

These same candles may have been sold at other retail stores.

Millennium Candles Sold at SAMS CLUB Stores

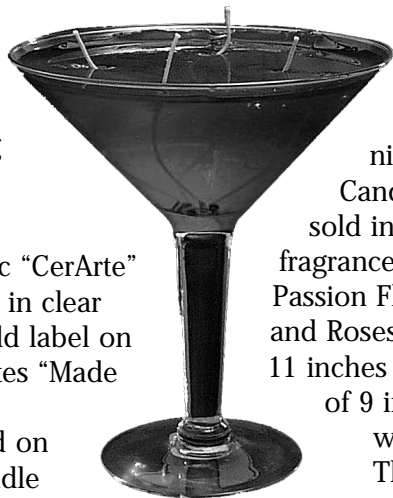
December 23, 1999 Release # 00-044

Hanna's Candle Co., of Fayetteville, Ark., is voluntarily

recalling more than 3,000 Millennium candles sold to SAMS CLUB. The candle holder can crack when the burning wick touches the side of the glass, causing lacerations.

There have been two incidents of cracked glass but no injuries reported with this product.

The recalled candles are in a martini glass, and are



advertised as being for the New Millennium. The box is labeled "The Millennium Martini Scented Candle." The candle is sold in three different fragrances: Raspberry Guava, Passion Floral Fruit and Wine and Roses. The candle is about 11 inches tall with a diameter of 9 inches, and is filled with a gel material. The candle has four wicks.

SAMS CLUB stores nationwide sold these candles from October 1999 through November 1999 for about \$20.

Consumers should stop using these candles immediately and return them to any SAMS CLUB store for a full refund. For more information, call Hanna's Candle Co. toll-free at (888) 242-6627 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

Recall of Christmas Candles

December 22, 1999 Release # 00-040

Fashion Bug, of Bensalem, Pa., is recalling about 6,300 gold-colored candles. The gold coating on these candles can ignite, posing a fire hazard. Fashion Bug received a report from a consumer that the gold coating on one of these candles ignited. No injuries or property damage were reported.

These gold-colored candles come in the shape of a Christmas tree or cherubs. The tree candle is about

7 inches high, and packaged in a cellophane wrapper. A label on the bottom reads, "Made in China." The cherub candle is about 3 inches high, sold in pairs and packaged in a red box with a gold-colored lid.

Christmas Light Recalls

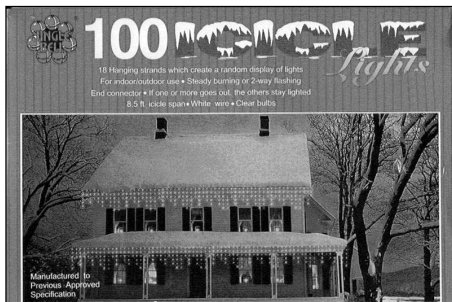
December 17, 1999 Release # 00-036

Jingle Bell Enterprises Inc., of Philadelphia, Pa., is recalling approximately 100,000 sets of miniature Christmas lights and icicle-style lights. These lights have undersized wires that can easily pull out of the plugs and individual light sockets, posing fire and shock hazards. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injury.

The recall involves sets of 100 clear lights in both traditional and icicle styles. The icicle lights have white wires and sockets, and no labeling on the light set. They are packaged in red boxes labeled in part, "100 Icicle Lights," "Manufactured to Previous Approved Specification" and "JINGLE BELL." Printed on the back of the package is, in part, "Made in China for Jingle Bell Enterprise Inc. Philadelphia Pa."

The traditional string light sets have either white or green wiring and sockets, and no labeling on the light sets. They are packaged in red boxes labeled, in part, "100 Christmas Lights," "STRING-A-LIGHT," and "Manufactured to Previous Approved Specifications." "Made in China for Jingle Bell Enterprise Inc., Philadelphia Pa" is printed on the back of the packaging. Also on the back of the packaging is one of the following item numbers: 00450 through 00455, 00491, 11491 and 11451. Jingle Bell brand light sets that have a Underwriters Laboratories' (UL) label are not part of this recall.

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December 22, 1999 Release # 00-042

Rich Pacific Ltd., of Plainview, N.Y., is recalling approximately 100,000 sets of miniature Christmas lights and icicle-style lights. CPSC has found that these lights have undersized wires that can pull out of the plugs and individual light sockets, posing shock or fire hazards. This recall is being conducted to prevent injury.

The recall involves sets of 100 lights in both traditional and icicle styles. The icicle lights have white wires and sockets, and no labeling on the light set. They are packaged in red boxes labeled, in part, "100 Icicle Lights," and "Manufactured to Previous Approved Specification." Printed on the back of the package is, in part, "Made in China for Pergament" and number "11181."

The traditional string light sets have either clear or multicolored lights, green wiring and sockets, and no labeling on the light sets. They are packaged in red boxes labeled, in part, "100 Christmas Lights," "STRING-A-LIGHT," and "Manufactured to Previous Approved Specifications." Printed on the back of the packaging is written, in part, "Made in China for Pergament" and number "10040" or "10041." Pergament Home Center stores in New York sold these lights from October 1999 through December 1999 for between \$2 and \$6. Pergament lights that have an Underwriters Laboratories' (UL) label are not part of this recall.

Backpack Child Carriers

December 22, 1999 Release # 00-037

Kelty, of Boulder, Colo., is recalling for repair approximately 26,000 Kelty K.I.D.S. backpack child carriers. The seat height adjustment strap on these carriers can slip out of the buckle. A child can slide downward in the seat unexpectedly and could fall out of the carrier.

Kelty has received two reports of children slipping down inside the carriers after the height adjustment strap came loose. Neither child fell out of the carrier, and there were no reports of injury.

There are six models of these Kelty K.I.D.S. backpack carriers: Expedition, Trek, Explorer, Country, Elite and Town. The model name is written on the side of the carrier. The carriers are blue and have the Kelty K.I.D.S. logo on the back rest of the seat. Kelty also manufactured a carrier that L.L. Bean sold under its "L.L. KIDS" label and has the "Kelty" logo on the black frame hinge that connects the kickstand to the main frame.

Specialty and sporting good retailers, including L.L. Bean, REI and Eastern Mountain Sports, sold the recalled backpack carriers nationwide from March 1999 through December 1999 for between \$100 and \$250.

Consumers should immediately stop using these backpack carriers, and contact Kelty for instructions on getting the free repair kit. For more information, consumers should call Kelty at (800) 423-2320 between 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or go to Kelty's web site at www.kelty.com.

Kelty and L.L. KIDS carriers purchased prior to March 1999 have a different type of seat adjustment strap and are not included in this recall.

CPSC, NHTSA and Kolcraft Announce Recall of Infant Car Seats/Carriers

December 20, 1999 Release # 00-034

In cooperation with the U.S. CPSC, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Kolcraft Enterprises of Chicago, Ill., is recalling about 754,000 infant car seat/carriers for repair. When used as an infant carrier, the handle can unexpectedly move from the intended carrying position, causing the seat to suddenly rotate. When this happens, the infant can fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries.

There have been more than 3,000 reports of handle-related problems, the majority of which report that the handle of the infant car seat/carrier unexpectedly moved from the intended use position, resulting in 42 injuries to infants. Some children were restrained in the carrier and others were not. These injuries range from a skull fracture



and concussions to cuts, scrapes and bruises. "Riding in a child safety seat on the car's rear seat for every trip is the safest way to transport young children in a motor vehicle," said NHTSA Acting Administrator Rosalyn Millman. "The recall announced today is not related to how the seat performs while in a car. Parents should continue using these carriers as car seats."

The recall involves Kolcraft infant car seat/carriers with the model names: Infant Rider, Secura,

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Travel-About, Plus 4, Plus 5, Kolcraft Infant Restraint, Kolcraft Infant Car Seat and Playskool Infant Car Seat manufactured from January 1, 1993, through June 30, 1999. The five-digit model/style number and manufacture date, written as month/day/year and possibly the model name are written on a label on the side of the seat. Some car seat/carriers also were sold with strollers.

If the first digits of the model/style numbers on your car seat/carrier match the numbers in the following list, then it is subject to this recall.

Model Style Number Series* of Affected Kolcraft Car Seat/Carriers

1312X, 1382X, 1383X, 1384X, 1385X, 368XX, 43XXX, 7700X

*There are a total of 50 Model/Style numbers affected by this recall.

Juvenile product, mass merchandise and major discount stores nationwide sold the car seat/carriers beginning in January 1993 for about \$30 to \$60 when sold alone, or \$100 to \$150 when sold with strollers.

Kolcraft will provide a free repair kit designed to make the handle more secure. The repair can be done easily in the home. Consumers should not carry the seat by the handle until it has been repaired. Consumers can continue to use the product as a car seat or in combination with the stroller.

CPSC, NHTSA and Kolcraft remind parents and caregivers to always restrain infants when in the car seat/carrier according to instructions.

To receive a free repair kit or for more information, call Kolcraft toll free at (877) 776-2609, 24 hours a

day, seven days a week. Seats manufactured from July 1, 1999, have newly designed handle mechanisms and are not part of this recall. Also, the Kolcraft Rock N Ride is not part of this recall.

CPSC and NHTSA have cooperated in two other infant car seat/carrier recalls - Evenflo's On My Way and Cosco Inc.'s Arriva and Turnabout.



Gap Recalls Children's Pajamas

December 9, 1999 Release # 00-032

Gap Inc., of San Francisco, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 231,000 children's pajamas sold at Gap and Old Navy stores. The pajama sets fail to meet federal children's sleepwear flammability standards. The standards require sleepwear to be flame-resistant, and if the fabric ignites, the flame must self-extinguish. Failure to meet the flammability standards presents a risk of serious burns to children.

Gap Inc. has not received any reports of injuries related to these pajama sets. Gap Inc. is voluntarily conducting this recall to help prevent the possibility of injury. All recalled pajamas have been removed from store shelves.

Today's recall announcement is the reissuance of the recall of the pajama sets announced December 2, 1999 by Gap Inc., and includes five additional style pajama sets that were tested and failed the federal flammability standard.

The six different styles of pajamas

being recalled are all made with 100 percent polyester fabric. The pajamas have style numbers 353558, 353554, 733002, 733032, 466291 and 674060. The style numbers are located on labels sewn into the side seams or collar of the garments.

Style 353558 are two-piece, front-button style with long sleeves and long pants. These flannel pajama sets come in yellow with penguin print or navy blue with bear print. The sets are labeled "Gap," and "100% polyester." They were sold in sizes 2 through 14.

Style 353554 are two-piece, front-button style with long sleeves and long pants. These fleece pajama sets come in white, blue and pink with a snowflake print. The sets are labeled "Gap," and "100% polyester." They were sold in sizes 2 through 14.

Style 733002 are one-piece, footed, zipper-front style with long sleeves. These fleece pajamas come in blue with a white snowflake print. The pajamas are labeled, "baby GAP," and "100% polyester." There were sold in infant and toddler sizes XS through 4XL.

Style 733032 are one-piece, footed, zipper-front style with long sleeves. These fleece pajamas come in black and white pony print and a cheetah print. The pajamas are labeled "babyGap," and "100% polyester." They were sold in infant and toddler sizes XS through 4XL.

Style 466291 are one-piece, footed, zipper-front style with long sleeves. These fleece pajamas come in navy with a white star print. The pajamas are labeled "babyGap," and "100% polyester." There were sold in infant and toddler sizes XS through 3XL.

Style 674060 are two-piece, front button top with long sleeve, long

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pants. The sets come in lavender or blue with white piping around the pant cuff with a shirt that has piping around the collar, front placket and cuff. The pajamas are labeled "Old Navy," and 100% polyester." They were sold in infant size 6-12 months through toddler size 2T-3T.

GapKids, babyGap, Gap Outlet and Old Navy stores nationwide sold these pajamas from August 1999 through December 1999 for between \$20 and \$39.

Recall of Novelty Lighters

February 7, 2000 Release # 00-062

Prometheus International Inc., of Bell, Calif., is recalling about 4,000 novelty lighters. The lighters do not have any child-resistant mechanisms, as required by the Consumer Product Safety Act. Young children could ignite the lighters, presenting a fire hazard. These lighters were discovered by CPSC by monitoring Internet web sites as part of Operation Safe Online Shopping (SOS). Operation SOS, launched in December 1999, is a CPSC initiative that monitors web sites for recalled, illegal and potentially hazardous consumer products being sold in cyberspace. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

The Intruder model lighter looks like a miniature propane or scuba tank, with a rectangular sleeve on the side into which the bottom part of the black activation/ignition button fits. The top two-thirds of the cylindrical tank body and the sleeve are black, and the tank is clear and transparent. A label on one side of the sleeve reads "Prometheus." A cover hides the flame port.

The Jupiter model lighter has a

metal body with a black top and bottom. The lighter has a distinctive gun-like shape. It has a hinged cover for the flame port. The cover opens when the ignition switch is pressed or the hinged cover is pulled back, and a high-intensity torch flame is produced. On the end opposite the flame port, a black screw-on cover hides the refill port. The brand name "Prometheus" is engraved into the lower area of one side of the lighter body.

Tobacco stores nationwide sold these lighters from March 1997 through February 1999 from \$50 to \$75. The company advertised these lighters on their web site at www.prometheuskkp.com.

CPSC Issues Federal Safety Standard for Multi-Purpose Lighters

December 10, 1999 Release # 00-029

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission voted unanimously (3 to 0) to issue a federal safety standard for multi-purpose lighters. The new standard will require multi-purpose lighters to be child-resistant. The new standard is intended to reduce the risk of injury and death associated with fires started by children under age 5 playing with multi-purpose lighters.

Multi-purpose lighters are generally butane-filled lighters commonly used to light charcoal and gas grills, pilot lights, camping stoves, candles and similar objects. They also are referred to as utility lighters, grill lighters, fireplace lighters, micro-torches or gas matches.

Since 1988, CPSC has identified 237 fires reportedly started by children under age 5 playing with multi-purpose lighters. These fires resulted in 45 deaths, including 28 deaths of children under 5 years

old, and 103 injuries. Since these are only the number of incidents reported to CPSC, they are considered to be a conservative indication of the true extent of the problem.

"I believe today's decision by the Commission is a bold and responsible step in fulfilling our mission to protect American consumers, particularly children, from death and injury resulting from consumer products," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown.

To meet the requirements of the new federal standard, a multi-purpose lighter must have the same level of child-resistance as required in the Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters. The child-resistant mechanism must operate safely, function for the expected life of the lighter, and not be easy to deactivate. The child-resistant mechanism also must automatically reset after use.

To give firms sufficient time to design, test and produce child-resistant, multi-purpose lighters, the new standard takes effect one year after its publication in the Federal Register. CPSC is aware of at least two child-resistant, multi-purpose lighters already on the market, and a number of other such lighters are in the final stages of development and testing.

Recall of Camp Mess Kits

December 7, 1999 Release # 00-028

Southern Exchange Co. Inc. (Texsport), of Houston, Texas, is recalling 146,000 mess kits, used for cooking over an open fire when camping. The mess kit's sauce pan handle does not lock into place and the mess kit's fry pan handle can bend during use, spilling hot foods or liquids onto consumers and causing serious burns.

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CPSC News

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CPSC and Texsport have received one report of a 10-year old boy who received second-degree burns to his ankle when boiling water spilled from the sauce pan he was using.

The five-piece mess kit being recalled was sold under the Texsport label. The kit includes a 5-inch aluminum sauce pan and cover, a 6.5-inch aluminum plate, a 7-inch aluminum fry pan, and a 4 oz. blue plastic cup. "Made in China" is on the bottom of the cup and on the fry pan handle. The mess kit was packaged in a green box, labeled in part, "mess kit.. item 13150... one person... 5-Piece... Texsport."

Camping, mass merchandise and army surplus stores nationwide and in Puerto Rico sold the mess kit from May 1994 through September 1999 for about \$3.

Consumers should stop using the mess kit immediately and return it to the store where purchased for a refund or replacement mess kit. For more information about this recall, call Texsport at (800) 231-1402 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or access www.texsport.com.

Recall of EASY-OFF Oven Cleaner

January 11, 2000 Release # 00-052

Reckitt & Colman Inc., of Wayne, N.J., is voluntarily recalling about 50,000 cans of EASY-OFF Heavy Duty Oven Cleaner. The oven cleaner's contents can spew out because of an improperly attached valve assembly that can separate from the can. Direct contact with the contents poses a risk of chemical burns to consumers' skin and eyes.

Reckitt & Colman has received 18 reports of these cans spewing oven cleaner, resulting in 12 reports of chemical burns to consumers' skin and eyes.

The 16-oz. aerosol cans of oven cleaner being recalled are yellow and have a solid yellow plastic cap. "EASY-OFF" is in bold black letters at the top part of the can, "HEAVY DUTY" is written in white letters inside a red block, and "Original" is written in white letters over a blue background. Only the oven cleaner with lot number B9305-NJ2 printed on the bottom of the can is part of the recall.

Supermarkets, mass merchandisers, hardware, drug and other stores nationwide sold the oven cleaner from November 1999 through January 2000 for about \$3 to \$4.

Consumers should not remove the cap of this oven cleaner. Consumers should wrap the recalled can of oven cleaner in several layers of newspaper, take it outside and dispose of it with the regular household trash. The company will send consumers a replacement oven cleaner coupon. For more information, consumers should call Reckitt & Colman toll-free at (888) 993-3389 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, and between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. ET Saturday and Sunday.

Recall of Snowblowers

January 27, 2000 Release # 00-059

Ariens Co., of Brillion, Wis., is voluntarily recalling about 27,000 Ariens and Lesco model snow-

blowers. Fuel can leak from the fuel-line connection, posing a fire hazard.

Ariens Co. has received 30 reports of fuel leaking from these snowblowers. No injuries have been reported.

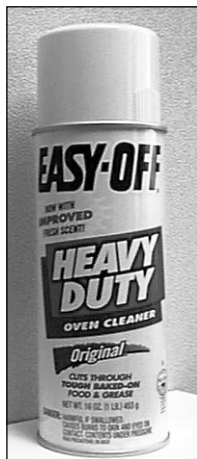
The recall includes SS322 and SS522 Ariens snowblowers manufactured in 1997 and 1999 with the following model and serial numbers located on the lower handlebar of the unit:

Model Number	Serial Numbers
938010	000101-002251
938011	000101-002295
938012	000101-002096
938015	000101-001567
938016	000101-018587

These Ariens snowblowers are orange and have "ARIENS" and "SS322" or "SS522" written on top of the engine cover.

The recall also includes Lesco model LSS522 snowblowers with serial numbers 063699000001 through 063699000402. The Lesco snowblowers are green with a "Commercialpulse" label on the engine cover. The model number and serial numbers are on the lower handlebar of the unit.

Ariens and Lesco retail outlets, hardware stores and home centers, including Home Depot, sold these snowblowers nationwide from July 1997 through January 2000 for \$450 to \$560. ♦



Ansul Attacks Restaurant Fires with PIRANHA

Ansul Incorporated of Marionette, Wisconsin has announced the introduction of PIRANHA, a new generation of fire protection systems for restaurant and commercial cooking equipment. The automatic pre-engineered systems provides greater hazard area using an agent-plus-water concept for fast fire knock-down, and cooking.

When the PIRANHA system detects a fire, PRX, liquid fire suppressant knocks down the flame and creates a securing foam blanket. The system then switches to a water spray that continually renews the foam blanket and provides rapid cooling of the hazard area to help prevent re-ignition of the cooking oil or grease.

Conventional single-agent wet chemical systems require specific nozzle selection and placement depending on the size and type of appliance being protected. The

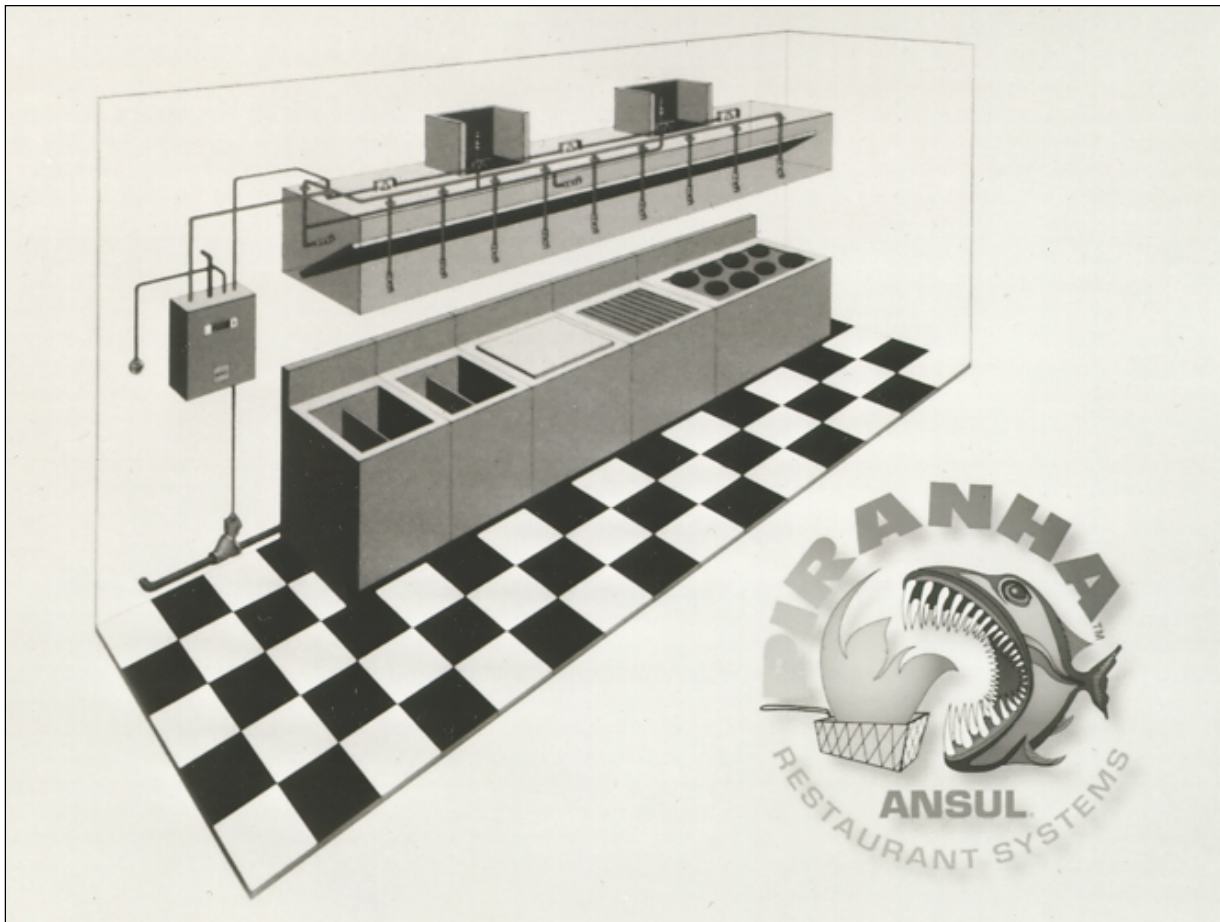
PIRANHA system provides a broader application method where nozzles are positioned at equal spacing under the exhaust hood. This creates overlapping coverage from one end of the appliance line to the other, which Ansul calls the "zone of protection." The overlapping coverage eliminates the need to protect most individual appliances and provides the freedom to rearrange and replace appliances easily without compromising the fire system coverage.

PIRANHA restaurant systems comply with the codes and standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 17A and 96; Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) Standard 300; Underwriters Laboratory of Canada (ULC) Standard ORD-C1254.6; International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Code Officials (IAPMO) PS 108-98; and the

American Society of Sanitary Engineers (ASSE) Standard 1001. PIRANHA systems are ideally suitable for use in restaurants, hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, schools, airports, entertainment complexes, and other similar institutional/commercial cooking facilities.

Dave Pelton, Market Development Manager of Ansul Incorporated, commented, "We excel in providing superior quality fire protection solutions in partnership with our distributors, end-users, and suppliers. We solve problems and, dollar for dollar, Ansul provides your best fire protection."

For additional information on PIRANHA restaurant suppression systems contact your local authorized Ansul restaurant systems distributor or call Ansul at 1-800-To ANSUL (or 1-715-735-7411). ♦



Interoperability in the Fire Service

Mark J. Cady, Communications Coordinator

Interoperability for communications is the ability for one fire department to communicate with another at an emergency incident. Fire departments primarily operate on one of five frequency ranges. This diversity can lead to confusion on the fire ground. Fire departments rely on the assistance of adjacent fire departments for support. Planning is critical when fire departments discuss communications upgrades.

A situation that may occur is that a fire department does not have the frequency of adjacent fire departments programmed into their radios. Programming can be fixed through preplanning communications requirements.

Another situation that may lead to communication problems is adjacent fire departments in different frequency ranges. Fire departments need to make provisions for their apparatus to communicate with adjacent fire departments. Apparatus and command vehicles may be equipped with multiple radios to communicate with another fire department.

Planning is an important part of the fire service. Communications is a tool that firefighters will use on every single call to which they respond. Equipment can vary from a mobile radio in a fire truck to a portable radio in a structure fire. Communications will be utilized during regular daily operation and during emergency situations.

Training for fire service personnel using communications equipment is very important. Alpha-numeric radios have assisted firefighters with communications issues, but this is no substitute for training. Firefighters need to know whom they can communicate with and how to accomplish this task. Communications training can be part of many other types of training, such as SCBA training, live fire training and technical rescue. Firefighters need to understand the limitations of all the equipment they use.

So ask yourself the next time what frequencies are programmed into the radio and if you handed this radio to another firefighter would they know how to operate it. ♦

Certain Regulatory Amendments: 527 CMR 2, 13 and 502 CMR 5.00

The Board of Fire Prevention has recently made two amendments to 527 CMR.

The first amendment, effective 1/7/2000, makes several minor and technical changes to 527 CMR 2.00: Manufacturing, Storage, Transportation and Use of Fireworks. The changes include: a change in the definition of "Fireworks Display Marine"; and adding a new subsection (n) to s. 2.08(8); as well as some editorial changes located in s. 2.02 (1) (b) (1), 2.08(4) and 2.08 (4) (b) (1).

The second amendment is an emergency regulation, effective 2/10/2000, which amends 527 CMR 13.00 relative to explosives. This amendment adds a new subsection: 13.09(12), relative to a new hydraulic blasting technology.

Additionally, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has established a new regulation, 502 CMR 5.00, which regulates the *Permit Requirements and Annual Inspection of Above Ground Storage Tanks or Containers of More Than Ten Thousand Gallons Capacity*. This regulation replaces a superceded regulation (520 CMR 12.00) which was previously enforced by the Department of Public Safety.

Copies have been sent to local fire departments. If you have any questions regarding these amendments, please contact Peter A. Senopoulos, Chief Deputy Legal Counsel, at (978) 567-3182. ♦

New York 2000 Fire / Arson Conference

The New York 2000 Fire / Arson Conference will be held May 15-19, 2000 at the Sheraton Saratoga Springs Hotel and Conference Center. This conference will provide topics of interest for both the novice and experienced investigator, whether from the fire service, law enforcement, insurance industry of the private sector. Topics will include: basic cause and origin; fire chemistry; spoilage of evidence; InterFire VR training;

electro-kindling; analyzing handwritten statements; SIU contact with law enforcement; ignition theories of electrical fires; collection and preservation of DNA evidence; the role of juveniles in firesetting and bombmaking; HazMat awareness and more. For more information contact: Gene Pietzak, c/o Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office, 899 Jerusalem Ave., Uniondale, NY 11553, (516) 572-1081. ♦

Safety Recall for Koehler-Bright Star, Inc RESPONDER Flashlight

The Koehler-Bright Star, Inc. RESPONDER right angle rechargeable flashlight has had a safety recall through the company, not through CPSC. The ni-cad battery-pack that powers the light (item # 500200 and 500201) has a safety-related defect in which the battery vents gases and pressure builds up inside the case of the light and it forcefully ejects the light switch or damages the case in other ways.

Koehler-Bright Star, Inc has sent a letter to all retailers who have purchased this product along with kits containing 24 alkaline C-cell batteries which can also power the light using four at a time.

If you have purchased this light with the rechargeable battery it is recommended that you take them out of service **immediately**.

If you have any questions on the recall of this product or if you are looking to get a safety kit please contact Paul Kish, Director of Engineering at Koehler-Bright Star, Inc, at (507) 825-1900 ext. 133. ♦

UL Urges Consumers to Replace Sensorpacks, on Certain CO Alarms

On Oct. 20, Underwriters Laboratories issued a warning to consumers that certain older, battery-operated BRK Brands, Family Guard, and First Alert carbon monoxide (CO) alarm models equipped with SensorPacks, may have reached the end of their service life and may fail to operate as required to detect CO.

UL urges consumers who have purchased or installed the following CO alarm models manufactured

by BRK Brands, Inc., to immediately replace the SensorPack,: “BRKCO,” “CO1000B,” “CO1120B,” “FACO,” “FACOAC,” “FCD1,” “FCD1AC,” “GCD1,” “NICO,” and “NICOAC.” According to BRK Brands, Inc., retailers have been contracted and encouraged to remove any remaining inventory of affected models from store shelves, along with any of the separately sold replacement SensorPacks, that are more than two years old.

These CO alarms can be readily identified by their round shape and a sliding drawer containing the SensorPack,. A model code is printed on the back of the alarm, and a date code is printed on the SensorPack. Consumers are urged to contact BRK Brands, Inc. directly, at 1-800-323-9005, for assistance in determining the age of the SensorPack, or to obtain a replacement SensorPack.

These units may emit a periodic signal as frequently as every five to seven minutes, which may indicate either the presence of CO, or that the SensorPack, needs replacement. Because CO may be present when the alarm sounds, UL and BRK Brands, Inc., recommend that family members gather immediately to determine if anyone feels any symptoms of CO poisoning, including nausea, fatigue, headaches, dizziness, confusion and breathing difficulties. If anyone feels these symptoms, they should immediately evacuate the premises and call 911. If there is no threat of CO, and the unit is emitting an alarm or periodic signal, consumers should not rely on these units to detect the presence of CO and should immediately arrange to replace the SensorPack.

UL Listed CO alarms play an important role in home safety. Thousands of lives have been saved because of the operation of these

life-safety devices. UL strongly urges consumers to continue using CO alarms.

UL Warns About Potentially Hazardous GFICs

On Sept. 13, UL issued a public notice to consumers, electrical distributors, electrical contractors and retailers that certain ground fault circuit interrupters (GFICs) bearing the company name KIC Corporation do not comply with UL’s safety requirements and bear a counterfeit UL Mark on the device packaging. These GFICs do not interrupt the supply of power during the presence of a ground fault condition and may present a safety hazard.

These products may be identified by the “KIC” company name and catalog number “KG111” appearing on the outer box and fold-out instruction sheet packaged with each individual GFIC. The letters “KIC” can also be found stamped into the metal mounting bracket extending beyond the front face of each device. The products are distributed primarily by electrical suppliers and distributors that serve the contractor industry. These products have not been submitted to UL for evaluation, and KIC is not a subscriber to any UL service.

A significant number of these devices may have been distributed in Florida for use around swimming pools, other areas of the United States may also be affected. These products have also been sold and distributed in Puerto Rico.

Although UL is unaware of any fires or injuries caused by these products, consumers using the devices are urged to immediately have them removed from service and returned to the original place of purchase. ♦

March Deadline to Request Field Programs

John McNamara, Coordinator, Field Programs

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy sends every fire chief and training officer a spring and fall course catalog listing academy Field Programs. The courses run from March to June and from September to December. Each training district or county is eligible for six requests a year; three in the spring and three in the fall. The district committee chairman is listed in the catalog.

Since field programs are scheduled well in advance, your selections for the fall semester should be submitted to the district training chairman in March.

Although some of the field programs are six hours in length, the majority are 12 hour programs. They can be held on weekends, nights (7-10) and weekdays (9-4) to suit the "host" department.

A list detailing the field programs that offer OEMS credit hours is included in the course catalog.

In order to host a program, it will be necessary to arrange for a comfortable classroom in your community such as a local school, library or fire station, that will accommodate up to 35 students. One or more of the following items may also be required: a 35mm slide projector, an overhead projector, movie screen, VCR, flip chart stand, paper and markers. The academy will be able supply the required projector, if one is not available.

Each student must fill out a separate application form and return it to the academy via mail or fax to (978) 567-3229. Two weeks prior to the start of the course, there must be a minimum of 15 students registered for the program to be conducted.

If your course involves aerial or ground ladders, they must have a



test certificate. If the course involves pumping apparatus and you have only one pump available for the practical session, a pumper can be sent out by the academy. If the course is Vehicle Extrication, usually six or seven vehicles are required for the practical session. On the vehicles used, the gas tanks, batteries, and any undeployed air bag units have to be removed.

The following are the courses offered through the Field Programs that are 12 hours long unless otherwise noted.

- Firefighter Health & Safety
 - Firefighter Safety & Survival: The Company Officers Responsibility
 - Firefighting Foam for Class "B" Fires: 6 hours
 - Ground Ladders
 - Incident Command System
 - Incident Safety Officer
 - Infection Control for Emergency Response Personnel: The Supervisor's Role
 - Large Diameter Hose
 - Protective Breathing, Search & Rescue
 - Pumps & Hydraulics
 - Rural Water Supply
 - Search for the Missing Person: 6 hours
 - "Practical" Aspects of Search for the Missing Person: Must take the 6 hour "Search" course first.
 - Search & Rescue: 6 hours
 - Small Aircraft Procedures: Familiarization & Rescue
 - Tactics & Strategy for the Firefighter
 - Vehicle Extrication
 - Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting
- If you have any questions on field programs call me at 1-800-654-5460, ext.3225. My e-mail address is: John.McNamara@state.ma.us. ♦
- Aerial Ladders
 - Building Construction: Wood & Ordinary
 - Conducting Basic Fire Inspections
 - Electrical Safety for the Firefighter: 6 hours
 - Emergency Vehicle Operator: 6 hours
 - Firefighter I/II

12th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner

The Chairmen of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus announced the theme of the 12th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner. "Let Your Voice Be Heard" will recognize the importance of the fire and emergency services taking an active role in the formulation of fire related public policy. The dinner takes place May 3 in Washington, DC, at the Washington Hilton and Towers.

"It is always an honor to be a part of a celebration recognizing the brave men and women of the American fire and EMS services," said Senator Roth (DE), chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. "This year, my colleagues and I selected a dinner theme that will heighten awareness among the fire and emergency services as to their role in the creation of public policy."

The dinner will culminate a day of events in Washington, DC engaging fire service, congressional and federal agency leaders in discussions about federal fire service initiatives. A new program being introduced this year is a seminar on effective grassroots activism, involving congressional staff members and the leaders of the fire and emergency services.

All activities scheduled during the day are part of the package offered to individuals attending the annual dinner. For more information, contact Mike Eversole, CFSI Events Coordinator, or visit the CFSI website at www.cfsi.org. ♦

12th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner

*"The American Fire Service:
Let Your Voice Be Heard"*

May 3, 2000

Washington Hilton and Towers
Washington, DC

9:30 a.m. Workshops
5:30 a.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner

*To make your reservation contact Mike Eversole,
CFSI Director of Development at (202) 371-1277.*

Family Fire Safety Days

Western Mass. June 25, 2000

Western Mass. Family Fire Safety Day will be held in conjunction with the New England Fire Chiefs' Conference on Sunday, June 25, 2000. This is an opportunity to for area S.A.F.E. Educators to interact with the public and to bring a fire safety education component to the Expo in a fun way.

Eastern Mass. Saturday Sept. 16

The 5th Annual Family Fire Safety Day will be held from 11 a.m. to 4

p.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2000 at the Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC) Houghton's Pond Reservation in Milton.

Both events are a wonderful opportunity to showcase the S.A.F.E. Program and to promote fire safety education.

S.A.F.E. Educators, fire departments, or organizations wishing to participate should contact the S.A.F.E. Program, (978) 567-3380. ♦

Advisory - Sony PlayStation Possible Power Cord Problems

It has been brought to our attention that there are potential problems (shock hazards) associated with the power cords for the Sony PlayStation. Sony Computer Entertainment America (SCEA) has issued a consumer alert after both the SCEA and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) received a small

number of reports of potential shock hazard. Further information has been placed on the SCEA web site, www.playstation.com. This consumer alert is completely voluntary by Sony Computer Entertainment America.

Further, the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Fire Investigative

Unit has investigated one fire related to this product as of this date.

If you have further questions please feel free to contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3300 or in Western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181. ♦

Fire Investigation News

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Office. He has also worked at the Diversion Investigation Unit, the Attorney General's Office and most recently at the headquarters section of Investigative Services. He is looking forward to joining the DFS team and recently commented that State Fire Marshal Coan has good reason to be proud of the investigators and bomb technicians he has assembled from within the ranks of the State Police. "At a time when there is fierce competition among the District Attorneys and the state-wide units for talented investigators, I consider myself very lucky to becoming a part of this elite team," said Lt. Zepf. ♦

The **DFS Quarterly** is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us

The **DFS Quarterly** is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community.

Thank you to Judy O'Brien for keen-eyed proofreading and elegant rewording.

Dates for 2000 DFS Summer Fire Safety Camp: July 18- 21

The 2000 Department of Fire Services (DFS) Summer Fire Safety Program will be held July 18-21, 2000 for children between the ages of 10 and 14. Each day approximately forty children will experience what fire service careers have to offer and learn a little about fire safety through fun activities. On July 18, the program will be held at the Barnstable County Training facility. This regional day is co-sponsored by the Cape & Islands Fire Chiefs' Association and the Cape & Islands Fire Prevention Association. On July 19 and 20 summer program will be held at the Stow campus of the Department of Fire Services. On Friday, July 21, summer program will be held in West Springfield on the grounds of the "Big E" for fire departments in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties only. This regional day is co-sponsored by the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs' Association and the Western Massachusetts Fire Prevention Association. Information will be mailed to local fire departments during the first week of March. ♦



Dates to Remember

- Now** Fire Chiefs advertise program to schools and fire department staff
- May 5** Fire Chiefs return Intent to Participate Form to DFS
- May 19** DFS sends letters of acceptance with date assignments and bus schedule
- June 2** Volunteers Sign-Up and CORI Request Forms Due Back to DFS
- June 23** Parents give Registration Form with Doctor's Note attached to Fire Chiefs
- June 30** Fire Chiefs return Registration Form with Doctor's Note attached to DFS

6th Annual Massachusetts Fire and Safety Public Education Conference September 25-26, 2000

This Conference will be held September 25-26, 2000 at the Westford Regency Hotel. Registration materials containing the workshop descriptions for the 6th annual Fire and Safety Public Education Conference will be distributed to all fire departments and other interested parties. To be included on this mailing list e-mail Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us and be sure to put the word conference in the subject line.

The Massachusetts Public Fire and Safety Education Task Force, which serves as the planning committee each year, will organize numerous new and interesting workshops. The goal of this conference is to

provide basic training for new fire educators through workshops that will interest our community partners, as well as new skill development workshops for experienced life safety educators.

Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award

Do you know a firefighter, EMT, nurse, Lion's Club member, teacher, elder service worker or health educator that has made a significant contribution to life safety education in the community, the region, or the state? Nominate them for the Educator of the Year Award. Forms will be included in the registration materials. The Award will be given at the Conference at lunch time. ♦

Smoke and Heat Detector Requirements

Continued from page 1

fire officials do not agree with the building code altogether and have made additional, or, less stringent requirements.

What are the obligations and rights of fire officials?

Chapter 148 Sec 28 (the so-called God Law) allows fire chiefs to add to the regulations, doesn't it? Wrong, this law allows only for additional regulations not inconsistent with 527 CMR. It does not allow for a fire chief to strengthen the Building Code (780 CMR). The local fire department as the local authority, is responsible only to require what is in the code.

The next time you are asked what do you want in your town, your answer should be, "only what the code specifies." ♦



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